

placed in some embarrassment in determining what measures to adopt in relation to them. Their backing out is a most inglorious one, and I am extremely gratified to find that it has given you but little trouble.

Before your letter reached me, some sixteen or seventeen of our people had volunteered & repaired to the rendezvous at Wilmington, amongst them Cal Mitchell, whose name I mentioned to you in Raleigh. I am sorry to say that this number has exhausted the material in this County who are willing to be made into *Soldiers* for the present war. If the Government were to call for a regiment of Colonels, Majors, and Captains, I think it likely we could furnish our quota without much trouble or delay. Of the small number which left this County, all but three are Whigs, and I think it very likely that if a count could be made of all belonging to the two parties, who have volunteered for the war, the whole army would be found to be made up pretty nearly in the same proportion. This is the kind of "aid" which the Whigs give to the enemy, to fight the Country out of a war, brought upon it by the blundering folly or the selfish ambition of the President.

The clamor made by certain democratic presses in relation to your appointment of Field officers does not surprise me. They would have complained of any appointments made by a Whig Governor, or a Whig Legislature. As to the appointment of Fagg, about which they raise the greatest noise, I still believe it to be a good one, and I have the strongest confidence, should the occasion offer, that he will sustain himself in such a manner, as to bring shame upon his defamers. But let it turn out as it may, your skirts are clear, and there is not a fair minded man in the Country who is not obliged to admit that you did right "with the lights before you" to make the appointment. The recent publication in the Register, giving the names of the indorsers of his claims, puts the matter, so far as you are concerned, at rest.

We are beginning to move in this district, with a view to the selection of a Candidate for Congress. In this County the public sentiment seems almost universally directed to Mr. Kerr, and I have some reason to believe that, if called on, he is willing to take the field. The district is fairly laid off as a democratic one, but there are several of their aspirants that, in my opinion, Kerr can beat.

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captain. He resigned in 1854, and was an engineer in North Carolina when the Civil War began. He was commissioned by the state a colonel of artillery, and engineers, and later was in the Confederate service. After the war he was superintendent of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.